

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AGR-20 RSC-01 AID-20 EB-11 AF-10 DRC-01 COME-00

ISO-00 TRSE-00 SWF-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 FEA-02 SS-20 NSC-07 /142 W

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P 030920Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4084

INFO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI PRIORITY

USINT ALGIERS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 4586

FODAG

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, UNGA, FAO, AG

SUBJECT: STATEMENT OF FAO DIRECTOR GENERAL

REF: A) STATE 64233 (NOTAL)

B) USUN 1075 (NOTAL)

1. PERMREP MET EARLY TUESDAY, APRIL 2, WITH DG BOERMA AND, DRAWING ON REFTEL, EXPRESSED SERIOUS U.S. CONCERN OVER STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED BOERMA IN LIBYAN PRESS. DG WAS ADVISED WE SAW REMARKS ESPECIALLY HARMFUL IN LIGHT ATTEMPTS WHICH OIL EXPORTING NATIONS ARE MAKING TO SHIFT BLAME FOR PRESENT EXHORBITANT PRICES AND FACT ATTRIBUTED COMMENTS APPEARED SO CLOSE TO OPENING SPECIAL UN GA. HIS STATURE AS HEAD MAJOR SPECIALIZED AGENCY WAS CERTAIN INCREASE ATTENTION GIVEN SUCH VIEWS.

2. BOERMA REPLIED NEWSPAPER ACCOUNT HIS TALK WITH PRIME MINISTER LIBYA SIMPLY NOT TRUE. ASKED THAT WE TRY UNDERSTAND SCENARIO. ONLY HANDFUL PEOPLE WERE IN MEETING (BOERMA WAS ACCOMPANIED BY ANDREW JOSEPH, DIRECTOR, FIELD LIAISON DIVISION) - TRANSLATION ARABIC INTO ENGLISH AND VICE VERSA
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REQUIRED. NOTES WERE TAKEN BY PERSON WHOM FAO BELIEVED TO

BE AGRICULTURE REPRESENTATIVE. COMMENTS WERE WIDE-RANGING AND DG DID CITE CONCERN OVER EFFECT HIGH PRICES FOODSTUFFS, FERTILIZERS AND OIL HAVING ON MEMBER COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY LEAST DEVELOPED. LANGUAGE PROBLEM PREVENTED IN-DEPTH DISCUSSION ANY ITEM AND MEETING THUS DISJOINTED.

3. WHEN INFORMED ARTICLE CONCERNING HIM DREW ERRONEOUS RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OIL AND GRAIN PRICE INCREASES, BOERMA SAID HE AWARE THIS NEWSPAPER COMMENT BUT IT WITHOUT BASIS. SAID HE PURPOSELY HAD JOSEPH DRAFT MESSAGE SENT COTTAM MARCH 27 IN ORDER BE SURE JOSEPH'S RECOLLECTION OF TALK PARALLELED HIS. SAID REPORT GROSSLY DISTORTS CONVERSATION HELD. IN RESPONSE ADDITIONAL U.S. POINT, DG SAID POSITIVE ACTIONS GRAIN EXPORTERS AS OPPOSED NEGATIVE POLICIES OIL EXPORTING NATIONS HAS FOR SOME MONTHS BEEN PART HIS STANDARD SPEECH ON COMMODITY SITUATION. HE FEELS CERTAIN ATTENTION WAS DRAWN TO THIS IN LIBYAN TALKS. RECOLLECTION IS HE DISTINCTLY CITED U.S. AND CANADIAN EFFORTS EXPAND FOOD PRODUCTION AND LOWER PRICES.

4. IN COURSE PERMREP APPROACH DG, LATTER SAID AT INVITATION GOVERNMENT HE WILL VISIT ALGIERS APRIL 4-5 ACCOMPANIED BY ADG'S YRIART AND OJALA AND ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR ROME WHO SPECIFICALLY PRESSED BOERMA UNDERTAKE TRIP PRIOR OPENING SPECIAL GA. IT IS BOERMA'S FEELING ALGERIANS MAY WISH HIS VIEWS ON APPLYING POLICIES SIMILAR THAT PERTAINING OIL COMMODITIES SUCH AS TEA, COFFEE, BANANAS AND CERTAIN RAW MATERIALS. HE CLEARLY FELT HE MUST ACCEPT INVITATION IN LIGHT FAO'S INTERESTS BUT WOULD DO SO WITH UTMOST CAUTION. HE, TOO, IS SERIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT SPECIAL GA. SAID HE SEES NO WAY IN WHICH IT CAN BE PRODUCTIVE AND FEARS IT COULD HARM WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE ITSELF. SAID HE HAS NO PLANS ATTEND GA.

5. REF B) RECEIVED FOLLOWING PREPARATION ABOVE. WHILE IT ALWAYS POSSIBLE DG MAY CHANGE MIND, HE CLEARLY SAID HE DID NOT INTEND PARTICIPATE GA, ALTHOUGH NEW YORK (PRESUMABLY FAO LIAISON OFFICE) HAD PRESSED HIM TO DO SO. INSTEAD, DG SAID HE WILL MEET AT THAT TIME IN PARIS WITH ACC. VOLPE

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: WorrelSW
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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